



South Australian Population Health Survey

Background

The South Australian Population Health Survey (SAPHS) is a state-wide population health survey managed by Preventive Health SA, which aims to monitor the health status of all South Australians. The SAPHS has been collecting information about the health of South Australians since July 2018.

Study population

A total of n=7000 South Australians are interviewed each year. Survey respondents include a minimum 2.5% of Aboriginal respondents in line with current Australian Bureau of Statistics population estimates.

Eligibility criteria

The SAPHS is a population health survey, and therefore South Australians of all ages are eligible to participate. Respondents must be residents of South Australia with access to a telephone. If the selected person is less than 16 years, a proxy respondent (parent or caregiver) is interviewed.

Interviews may be conducted in languages other than English, however, there may be some languages beyond the capabilities of the data collector and therefore these people are excluded from the study.

Sampling strategy

A dual over-lapping sampling technique is applied, with the use of combination of mobile and landline numbers designed to reach a more representative sample of the population. Since January 2022 the Integrated Public Number Database (IPND) has been used as a sampling frame. Prior to the use of the IPND, the sample was acquired using random digit dialling.

Selected persons are non-replaceable, such that if the selected person is not available, interviews are not conducted with alternative household members.

Recruitment of participants

Potential respondents are contacted in the first instance to assess eligibility and are then invited to participate in the survey. A standardised introduction is read out to respondents regarding who is calling, the purpose of the survey, confidentiality and that the survey is voluntary. Participants are asked if they reside in South Australia and for their postcode.

Respondents are asked if they prefer a male or female interviewer and if they require language assistance.

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Quick Facts

Methodology



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Up to 15 call backs are made to each number before the selected individual is classified as a 'non-contact', but this number is less for those in the sample with a mobile phone number as respondents are more cognisant of the number of missed calls on mobile phones. The data provider has an in-bound call facility whereby participants can ring to either complete the survey, decline to participate or ask any questions.

Recruitment of participants occurs on a monthly basis, with the aim of completing around 600 interviews per calendar month.

Method of collection

The SAPHS utilises a computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system.

From 2018-2021 (random digit dialling sampling frame), participants were offered the option of completing the survey online (computer assisted web interviewing – CAWI). This option is no longer available under provision of the IPND by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, due to clauses in the *Telecommunications Act 1997*.

Study procedure

Once a person has consented to participate, the survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. The participant may choose to be contacted at an alternative time or day that is most suitable to them. Telephone calls will be made on a rotation of shifts across all times of the day and evening (up until 8.30pm on weekdays and 5.00pm on weekends) with coverage over 7-days of the week.

Data analysis

Weighting is a technique for adjusting unit record survey data to enable population estimates to be made by statistically increasing or decreasing the numbers of cases with particular characteristics so that the proportion of cases in the sample are adjusted to the population proportion. A technique known as 'raking' is used to weight respondents incorporating various population characteristics (gender, age, area of residence, country of birth, dwelling status, marital status, education level, employment status, household size) designed to more closely reflect the South Australian population using benchmarks derived from the June 2021 ABS Census data. The weighting of data can result in rounding discrepancies or totals not adding.

Data presented in an annual report will be largely descriptive in nature. Statistical tests may be performed under the guidance of the Principal Statistician and Senior Epidemiologist within the Epidemiology and Research Division.

The South Australian Population Health Survey has been reviewed and approved by the South Australian Department for Health and Wellbeing Ethics Committee: HREC/18/SAH/11.

For more information: Epidemiology and Research Division
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